A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (the Board) was held on Friday, September 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 427A Waterman Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Thomas Little, Claire Ayer, Bill Botzow, Martha Heath, James Leddy, and Mark Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Secretary Edwin Amidon, Jr., Johanna Donovan, Richard Hube

ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Bramley, Acting President; Karen Meyer, Vice President for Federal, State, and Community Relations; and Don Honeman, Dean of Enrollment Planning and Admissions

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2006.

Review of Work Plan

The Chair proposed and the Board agreed that the ongoing discussions about the Board’s role in modernizing and promoting the University’s land grant mission should be incorporated into the University’s updated strategic plan. At the November meeting, the Board will review the plan and identify opportunities to highlight the land grant mission within that document. The Board also endorsed scheduling an annual briefing on the admissions process at the September meeting.

Legislative Update

Vice President Karen Meyer reported on the activities of the Commission on Higher Education Funding (CHEF), which are preparatory to CHEF’s annual recommendation to the Legislature on the amount of state funding for higher education. The CHEF recommendation will be finalized later this fall and is expected to target an increased state funding level (as a percentage of personal income) that will result in improving to a national ranking of 40th among the states. CHEF is also expected to recommend a supplemental appropriation if revenues are sufficient. It is anticipated that the Governor’s budget recommendation will include funding for additional scholarships for Vermont students. The University’s capital appropriation request, as in the past two years, will be framed in very general terms to allow state funds to be used for undesignated construction projects as well as major maintenance.

Vice President Meyer and Acting President John Bramley reported on the initial meeting and future activities of the Next Generation Initiative Commission, which was created by the 2006 General Assembly to develop a plan to encourage Vermonters to live and work in Vermont. The Commission will submit its plan and make funding recommendations for implementation by December. The Board asked staff to forward periodic updates on the Commission’s activity.
brief discussion followed on the University’s use of additional one-time scholarship funds, totaling about $1.67 million, provided by the 2006 Legislature.

Vice President Meyer advised the Board of a new publication being developed to tell legislators and community leaders about the University’s economic impact throughout the state.

**Briefing on Admissions Process**

Don Honeman, Dean of Enrollment Planning and Admissions, briefed the Board on the University’s admissions process and the record number of Vermont and out-of-state applications for the class of 2010. He explained why admissions standards are becoming more stringent but pointed out that the percentage of Vermont students admitted by the University is still very high. He then provided a number of examples of how the admissions office is working to encourage and support Vermont applicants, their families, and schools. The Board suggested that some of the information being furnished to parents and guidance counselors about the admissions process be provided to legislators to help them respond to constituent requests and concerns. Vice President Meyer promised to work with the admissions office to accomplish that.

Acting President Bramley discussed the recent *USA Today* story on the effects of ascending admissions standards on in-state students and provided background information on University admissions and financial aid for use in conversations with constituents arising from the article. The Board agreed that it is far better for the University to be perceived by Vermonters as a school of choice rather than as a safety school.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Leddy, Acting Secretary